

the writing of this note. Occasionally the flock has been divided and fewer individuals only have been seen; yet it appears to have remained essentially intact, for on February 4 and 13 the number was reckoned as fifty or more. On December 25 seventy-three birds were actually counted, as they passed in squads in the same direction from one group of trees to another group. On January 30 one was singing very prettily, perched high and alone in an oak. This is the first flock to appear in the vicinity of Boston. A single bird only has been hitherto reported, seen at Squantum Head, March 26, 1912 (Auk, XXIX, July, 1912, p. 394), which disappeared and was not further noted. The Cambridge flock has remained in and about the Fresh Pond reservation. It is interesting that an employee in the park, who told me that he was fifteen years from Ireland, recognized these birds at once on their appearance, feeling sure they were what were called in the Old Country 'Stares,' in England, Starlings. He was pleased to have the identification confirmed.—HORACE W. WRIGHT, *Boston, Mass.*

The Rusty Blackbird (*Euphagus carolinus*) in Connecticut in Winter.—On January 18, 1914, I observed two Rusty Blackbirds in Edgewood Park, New Haven, Conn. The birds were in a portion of the park that is rather swampy in character. These swamps are evidently fed by springs, as the shallow water does not freeze throughout the year. This makes the third winter record for this species in Connecticut. The other two are both December dates and are regarded, probably correctly, as instances of late fall migration (Birds of Connecticut, 1913, p. 115). It is interesting to note that both of these December records — one by Mr. C. H. Pangburn and one by myself — are from this same swampy area in Edgewood Park.—ARETAS A. SAUNDERS, *New Haven, Conn.*

The Bobolink (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*) as a Conveyer of Mollusca.—On April 18, 1913, there appeared some flocks of northward bound Bobolinks; a rare bird at this time of the year, as they usually pass at night, without stopping, on their northward trip; quite the contrary to their fall migrating habits, when they stay with us, in great numbers for nearly a month. I shot three or four birds, all males, and was very much surprised to find live Mollusca among their feathers; having sent some of the snails to Dr. H. A. Pilsbry, of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, for determination, he kindly informed me that they were *Succinea riisei* (Pfr.) known from the Islands of St. Croix and Porto Rico, but not from Cuba. It would be interesting to know the date of arrival of the Bobolinks at Porto Rico in the Spring of 1913, and thus tell whether the shells came from there or from St. Croix.—CHAS. T. RAMSDEN, *Guantanamo, Cuba.*

Cowbird Note.—May 30, 1909, I was lying partly hidden behind a log at Westerly, R. I., and trying to discover the nest of a pair of Black and

White Warblers (*Mniotilta varia*) by the actions of the old birds. A short time after taking up my position a female Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) came flying through the trees and lit but a short distance away. From time to time I glanced at her to see what she was up to but was unable to see that she had moved a muscle for some twenty minutes, for which time she remained hunched up as if asleep. Then she flew straight to the nest of a Red-eyed Vireo (*Vireosylva olivacea*) which though but ten feet from my hiding place, was so well concealed that it had escaped my attention. After remaining on the nest about two minutes she flew out of sight among the trees. Upon investigation I found the nest to contain two eggs of the rightful owner and one of the Cowbird.— A. BRAZIER HOWELL, *Covina, Cal.*

Evening Grosbeak (*Hesperiphona vespertina vespertina*) **at Boston, Mass.**— On December 29, 1913, while going through the Arnold Arboretum looking for birds, a friend and I saw one which we took to be a female Evening Grosbeak, although we failed to get a good view of it. The next day I went alone to the same spot and found the bird feeding on the ground near a hop-hornbeam tree. I approached slowly within two rods of it and watched it for nearly half an hour. The markings were very distinct in the bright sunshine and there was no doubt about its identity. I could not make out whether it was feeding on grass and weed seeds or something else. At length on the approach of a man from the opposite direction it flew up into the hornbeam and from there to the big oak, where I left it. I saw it again on January 1 and 2 and was told that it was seen in the same spot December 31. That makes in all five successive days and would seem to indicate that it intended to stay there for some time.— EDWARD H. ATHERTON, *Roxbury, Mass.*

The White-winged Crossbill (*Loxia leucoptera*) **in the District of Columbia.**— Within the close of the rectory of Trinity Episcopal Church at Takoma Park, D. C., are three scrub pines, *Pinus virginiana*, of medium size, densely laden with cones. Two of these, one on each side of the walk leading to the steps, extend their branches within ten feet of the front porch where, alone, I was quietly sitting in a rocking chair about 3 P. M. October 23, 1913, literally basking in the hospitable rays of the sun rapidly declining after a bright, but rather brisk, wintry day. I had been on the porch but a few minutes when I discovered several birds assiduously searching the cones in the further one of these two trees. Their movements strangely suggested paroquets and were accentuated by plaintive notes constantly emitted. They were White-winged Crossbills, eight in number. They gradually worked their way to the tree directly in front of which I was sitting, and ultimately reached the very ends of the branches within ten feet of me. I followed their every movement for upwards of fifteen minutes. They left the tree precipitately in a body. About three quarters of an hour later I saw and heard them in a grove of larger pines two squares distant.